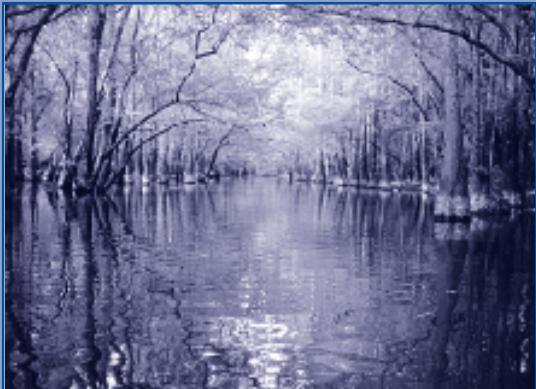




NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Accountability Report



Fiscal Year 1999

Cover photos: counterclockwise from top left, Congaree Swamp National Monument; King's Palace in Carlsbad Caverns National Park; piping plover nests protected at several NPS sites; black-footed ferret in Badlands National Park; Tower of Babel in Arches National Park; Joshua Tree National Park.



Accountability Report

Fiscal Year 1999



*To preserve the significant places of beauty and majesty
of the very land in which we have our roots; to keep living
and accessible, and dynamic the steps of our history;
so that a self-understanding patriotism of the highest
order will continue to have throughout the future an
effortless and natural flow—this is the covenant by which
the National Park Service is bound.*

Freeman Tilden, Fifth Essence

Table of Contents

A Message from the Director	v
Overview	1
Diversity in the Parks and People	1
The National Park System	2
The National Park Service	9
FY 1999 Highlights	17
Natural Resource Challenge	17
Vanishing Treasures	18
Everglades Restoration and Research	19
5-year Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan	21
Recreation Fee Demonstration Program	21
Save America's Treasures	22
Partnerships	23
Heritage Partnership Areas	24
Historically Black Colleges and Universities	26
Park Specific Increases	27
Milestones	30
Employee Safety	33
Information Technology	33
Awards	34
Resource Stewardship	37
Natural Resources	37
Cultural Resources	44
Land Acquisition	50
Visitor Services	51
Interpretation and Education	51
Concessions	56
Park Protection	58
Partnership Programs	61
Helping Communities Preserve Their Cultural Heritage	61
Community Conservation Assistance	68
Financial Performance Measures	71
Audited Consolidated Financial Statements	77
Notes to the Financial Statements	85

<i>Stewardship and Heritage Assets</i>	97
National Park Service Land .....	.97
Wilderness Areas .....	.98
National Wild and Scenic Rivers System .....	.100
National Trails System .....	.102
Heritage Areas .....	.103
Archeological Sites .....	.103
Cultural Landscapes .....	.104
Historic and Prehistoric Structures .....	.104
Museum Collections .....	.106
National Historic Landmarks .....	.107
Paleontological Sites .....	.108
<i>Supplemental Financial Statements</i>	109
<i>Inspector General Audit Opinion</i>	117

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the National Park Service Accountability Report for fiscal year 1999. Highlights of our FY 1999 achievements offer only a glimpse of the complexity and breadth of NPS responsibilities and accomplishments.

The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program continued to provide additional funds that allowed parks to address a backlog of health and safety projects and other critical resource needs. Partnerships with corporate America, philanthropists, and state and local governments provided revenues for park improvements, including the structural rehabilitation of the Washington Monument and the restoration of natural features and a 1920's era airfield at Crissy Field in Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco.

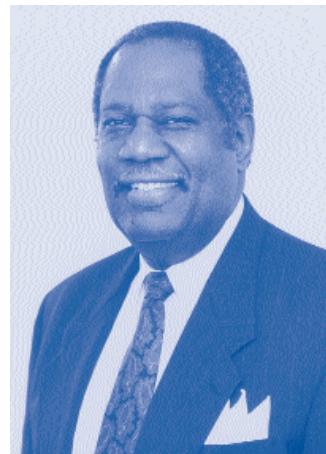
The NPS continued its partnership with over 22 federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies in support of the South Florida ecosystem restoration. In support of this initiative, the Service acquired 12,630 acres to restore and protect the water flow into the Everglades and Florida Bay ecosystems.

The "Natural Resource Challenge," a five-year program to strengthen natural resource management in the NPS, was unveiled. Parks are increasingly threatened by invasions of nonnative species; pollution is affecting the health of park ecosystems; and overcrowding and the incompatible uses of resources in and around parks are placing increased pressure on the resources the NPS is charged to protect. The Natural Resource Challenge calls for expanded inventory programs and the development of efficient ways to monitor and evaluate impacts on natural systems in order to gather accurate information for sound, science-based decision making. The challenge also calls for enlisting the scientific community to help gather and share the results. The information obtained through this work will serve as the underlying data that will allow the NPS to make informed decisions and take informed actions in the parks, and to inspire similar decisions and actions outside the parks.

National Parks belong to all Americans, yet many citizens do not see themselves reflected in the workforce or the stories they find in the nation's parks. Employees of the NPS and the programs they manage must reflect the nation's diversity. I am promoting diversity within our work-

force by expanding our recruiting programs through reaching out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges. Park managers are diversifying their seasonal and permanent staff. The face of our work force, especially in our seasonal programs, is becoming more diverse. The NPS is also determined to make the national parks engaging and meaningful for all Americans. We are dedicated to interpretation programs that tell the stories that are critical to America's history. We hold in our care the special places and stories that weave the very fabric of our nation's great heritage, a fabric of many textures and many colors—all important to our nation's legacy.

As stewards of some of our nation's most important treasures, the NPS will continue to think not only in terms of what we will preserve for this generation, but also of what we will pass on for the benefit of countless generations to come. I recommend that all recipients of this report read it in its entirety so that they may better understand and appreciate the mission and accomplishments of the National Park Service.



Robert Stanton Director of National Park Service

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Stanton".



“Mankind differs as the waves, but they are as one as the sea.”

Frederick Douglass